

Streets Ahead!

Winter 2009/10

News from the CURBS Project (Children in URBAN Situations)

NEW TEAM!

Last year saw CURBS expand! In June, Jean Elliott joined Kathryn for one day a week to help with developing new resources, training and exploring new initiatives in East London, including **★Kids United★**. Jean works as the Waltham Forest Deanery Children's Development Worker and with a church near Chelmsford for the rest of the week, and has been involved with CURBS for many years as a volunteer.

In October, Kate Traynor joined Jean and Kathryn for three days a week to help with developing CURBS Hubs, training and admin, while working alongside the E1 Community Church in Shadwell also in East London. Kate has worked as a youth worker and also a family support worker, so brings lots of experience to the project.



Jean,
Kate and
Kathryn

NEW OFFICE!

For the first time in ten years, the CURBS office has moved out of Kathryn's house! We are delighted to have been offered space for our office, resources and activities storage at St Mary's Church in Shadwell, Tower Hamlets. This is also where **★Kids United★** takes place so is an ideal location for us. Please note our new address and phone number. The office is 'active' Monday to Wednesday.

CURBS
c/o St Mary's Church Hall
71 Johnson Street
London E1 0AQ
Tel: 07956 566698

St Mary's Church



NEW WEBSITE!

Well, nearly! We are just putting the finishing touches to a new website where you will be able to view and buy our resources, and download some of the more recent ones. It will be up and running in the new year. Our web designer's baby decided to arrive midway through the redesign!

NEW RESOURCES!



Our Community Factory is a new resource for 7-11s which uses Jesus' Kingdom parables to help children celebrate their place in the community. It has six sessions of a 'project' nature, encouraging children to think of ways to make their community a better place.

Oh Look! - in the street is our first resource for under fives. Each session is based around a Bible story and a story about life on a typical urban street. Games, simple crafts, songs and prayers make this an ideal resource for Sunday and mid-week activities.



NEW FUNDING!

In common with other small charities, finding the necessary funds to maintain our work as well as move forward is always a challenge. We are therefore thrilled to have received funding to support Kate for three years from The Jerusalem Trust as we work in partnership with the E1 Community Church, one of our pilot 'hubs'.

We are also really delighted to have received a grant through the Church Urban Fund's Mustard Seed Grants Programme towards developing the work of **★Kids United★** with a particular view to developing a resource using themes and stories that have a common heritage in both Christianity and Islam.

NEW EXPERIENCES!

A lot has happened this year! Here are a few tasters! 'Every Child's Spirituality Matters Conference' in June which we ran with Ci2eye and Spurgeon's Network was well supported and we had good feedback. Jean and Kathryn were involved with 'The Big Feast', the Chelmsford Diocesan Children's Festival - great fun! - and have continued to lead 'Inspire', the Diocesan training course in children's ministry, in the Walthamstow area. Summer and half term holidays were busy with **★Kids United★** where again we had great support from The Goup at Bookham Baptist Church. 'CURBS Unpacked' has gone well with one final session to go. Finally, in November Kathryn visited both Dublin and Belfast to speak and run workshops at the annual Building Blocks children's ministry conferences.